

## **CHAPTER 4      MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE AND REGISTRATION**

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### **400      GENERAL PROVISIONS AND FEES**

- 400.1 The rules and regulations contained in this chapter shall govern the issuance of certificates of title for motor vehicles, the registration of motor vehicles, and the issuance of motor vehicle identification tags by the District of Columbia.
- 400.2 The Director shall file each application received and, when satisfied as to its genuineness and regularity and that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a certificate, shall issue a serially numbered certificate to the applicant.

- 400.3 The Director shall file all applications for certificates and registration and all surrendered certificates in a manner that will permit the tracing of every certificate issued for a vehicle.
- 400.4 All papers in connection with certificates and registrations shall be retained by the Director for a period of not less than ten (10) years, unless such papers shall have first been microfilmed, in which event the original papers may then be destroyed, and the microphotographs shall be kept on file.
- 400.5 The model year shown on the manufacturer's certificate of origin shall be followed in the processing of title applications by the Department.
- 400.6 Each application for a certificate, registration, special use tags, special use certificate, duplicate of any kind, and any other item described in this title, shall be made upon the form prescribed or approved by the Director and shall be accompanied by all required fees and taxes.
- 400.7 An owner who leaves the District and retains his or her District tags and registration (but surrenders his or her title to another jurisdiction) and subsequently returns to the District during the same registration period shall be charged for a new title.
- 400.8 An owner who leaves the District and returns during the same registration period who does not retain his or her District title and registration, shall be charged only for a new title and duplicate tags.
- 400.9 Replacements for damaged tags and revalidating stickers shall be made without fee if the damaged tags are surrendered; otherwise, the two-dollar (\$ 2.00) replacement fee shall be paid.
- 400.10 All surrendered tags and revalidating stickers shall be recorded and destroyed.

#### **401 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE**

- 401.1 The application for a certificate of title shall be made by the owner and shall set forth the following:
- (a) The owner's true and lawful given name, middle name or names, if any, and surname; residence and business address, if any; driver's license number; and date of birth;
  - (b) A description of the vehicle including (so far as the following data exists) make, model, year of manufacture, type of body, identifying number, manufacturer's shipping weight, and whether the vehicle is new or used;
  - (c) The date of purchase by applicant; the name and address of the person from whom the vehicle was acquired; and the names and addresses of any lien holders in the order of their priority and the dates of their respective security agreements;

- (d) Any further information which is reasonably required by the Director to identify the vehicle and to enable the Director to determine whether the owner is entitled to a certificate and whether there exists any security interest in the vehicle;
  - (e) A statement as to the kind of identification tags desired or a statement that the applicant does not intend to register the vehicle; and
  - (f) Proof of District of Columbia residency for at least one owner; except that a vehicle owned by an out-of-state lessor and leased to a District of Columbia resident may apply and an out-of-state insurance company may apply in connection with an insurance claim if the vehicle is located in the District.
- 401.2 If the applicant knows or has reason to know that the vehicle has been registered in the District or in any other jurisdiction as a taxicab, commercial vehicle, or for livery or sightseeing purposes, the application shall indicate the prior registration by one of the following, as appropriate: "x taxi," "x commercial," "x livery," or "x sightseeing."
- 401.3 Each application shall be executed by the owner(s) of the vehicle for which a certificate is sought, except that an application of an owner serving in the Armed Forces outside the borders of the United States may be signed in the name of the owner by the owner's spouse or next of kin upon proof of the relationship satisfactory to the Director.
- 401.4 If the application refers to a new vehicle it shall be accompanied by a certificate of manufacture or such other proof of ownership as the Director may reasonably require.
- 401.5 If the application refers to a vehicle previously registered in the District, the application shall be accompanied by a certificate or other proof of ownership that the Director may reasonably require.
- 401.6 If the application refers to a judicial sale, the application shall be accompanied by a bill of sale from the person authorized to make the sale and a certified copy of the court order that authorized the sale.
- 401.7 If the application refers to a vehicle last previously registered elsewhere than in the District, the application shall be accompanied by one (1) of the following:
- (a) Any certificate of title issued by the other jurisdiction;
  - (b) If no certificate of title is or, during the period in which the vehicle was last registered, was required by the other jurisdiction, the evidence of ownership shall be in the form which is or was required by the other jurisdiction for the purpose of registering the vehicle in that jurisdiction; or
  - (c) If no such proof of ownership is specified in the other jurisdiction, an invoice or bill of sale signed by the transferor(s) of the vehicle to the applicant and bearing the sworn statement of the transferor(s) to the effect that the transferor(s) is (are) the sole owner(s) of the vehicle and that, except as specified in the invoice or bill of sale, there is no lien outstanding against the vehicle, if that is true; otherwise a full statement covering any security interest in the vehicle.

- 401.8 If the application is submitted by the holder of a lien under any security interest who has possession of the vehicle, the application shall be accompanied by any outstanding certificate and the vehicle registration plates removed from the vehicle (or a statement explaining the absence of the certificate and plates satisfactory to the Director), and a duly authenticated copy of the instrument which created the interest(s).
- 401.9 If the application is submitted by a purchaser from a lien holder at a sale of a vehicle by the lien holder, the application shall be accompanied by a duly authenticated bill of sale from the person authorized to make the sale and the registration plates removed from the vehicle (or a statement explaining the absence of the plates satisfactory to the Director).
- 401.10 If the application is submitted by a surviving joint owner or owners, the application shall be accompanied by any outstanding certificate (or a statement explaining its absence to the satisfaction of the Director) and by a duly authenticated death certificate referring to the deceased joint owner or owners.
- 401.11 If the application indicates that the applicant does not desire to register the vehicle, the application shall contain the number of the current District of Columbia inspection sticker or any further reasonable proof of identification of the vehicle that may be required by the Director.
- 401.12 Except when a District of Columbia title accompanies the application, each application must be accompanied by a certificate of a person authorized by the Director stating that the identifying number of the vehicle has been inspected and found to conform to the description given in the application, or any other proof of the identity of the vehicle which the Director may reasonably require.
- 401.13 If the identification number of any vehicle is defaced or missing, the owner of the vehicle shall make application to the Director for a DMV number. The Director shall issue a plate or plates bearing a DMV number which shall be affixed to the vehicle in the manner prescribed by him or her. That number shall thereafter be the lawful identification number of the vehicle. The affixation of the plate or plates shall be verified by the Director prior to the issuance of any certificate of title for the vehicle.
- 401.14 Motor numbers shall not be used as a means of identification on certificates. In place of motor numbers, the Vehicle Identification Number or, if none, the serial number, of the vehicle will be used in all title applications and on the face of titles, as well as on other documents issued or kept for record purposes.
- 401.15 In the event an application for title involves a vehicle for which District certificate is outstanding, no verification by a inspection station shall be required if the application is accompanied by the sticker number of an official inspection sticker affixed to the windshield, a legible tracing of the serial number, and the certificate number.
- 401.16 In determining the fair market value of a vehicle for the purposes of calculating the amount of tax due under § 6(j) of the Traffic Act of 1925, approved July 3, 1926 (43 Stat. 1121; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.03(j) (2001), the Director shall use the then current National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Guide for the Eastern Region. If the NADA guide does not provide the fair market value for a particular vehicle, the applicable bill of sale shall be used.

- 401.17 An application for a title, other than a duplicate title, shall not be accepted unless all of the new owner's outstanding fines, fees, and penalties imposed pursuant to the District of Columbia Traffic Adjudication Act of 1978, effective September 12, 1978 (D.C. Law 2-104; D.C. Official Code § 50-2301.01 *et seq.*) have been satisfied.

## **402 TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

- 402.1 If an owner transfers interest in a vehicle, other than by the creation of a security interest, he shall, within four (4) business days after the delivery of the vehicle, execute an assignment and warranty of title to the transferee in the space provided on the certificate or as the Director prescribes, and cause the certificate and assignment to be delivered to the transferee. If no certificate is outstanding, the transferor shall deliver the proof of ownership prescribed in § 401.
- 402.2 An application for title by any person acquiring a vehicle which is titled in the name of a deceased person shall be accompanied by an assignment of ownership executed by the decedent's personal representative and an authenticated copy of the letters testamentary or administration issued to the representative by an appropriate court. If the vehicle is the subject of a small estate order and is a scheduled asset in the order, the person in whose name the probate court vests title in the vehicle may make the assignment. An authenticated copy of the small estate order shall accompany the application for a new certificate.
- 402.3 In the case of deceased person who was a national of a foreign country whose certificate was issued free because of diplomatic status, an application for a new title shall be accompanied by a letter from the Embassy or Mission to which the deceased person was attached, stating that the transfer of ownership is desired. The letter shall be signed by the Ambassador or one of the First Secretaries, or, in the absence of both, the Charge D' Affaires.
- 402.4 If a dealer transfers a new vehicle to any person, that dealer shall, within four (4) business days after the transfer, deliver to the transferee a certificate of manufacture, except that in the case of a transferee who is a duly accredited representative of a foreign government, the certificate need not be delivered within the four (4) day period but shall be delivered as soon after delivery of the vehicle as possible.
- 402.5 For purposes of § 402.4, the term "dealer" means a new car dealer registered in accordance with this title, banks, finance companies, and other persons holding a certificate of manufacture with the right to assign that certificate.
- 402.6 If a dealer acquires a vehicle, holds it for resale, and procures the certificate from the owner or the lien holder, that dealer need not apply for a new certificate but, upon transferring the vehicle to another person (other than by the creation of a security interest), shall do the following:
- (a) Promptly execute the assignment and warranty of title by a dealer, showing the names and addresses of the transferee(s) and any lien holder holding a security interest created or reserved at the time of the resale and the date of his or her security agreement in the spaces provided on the certificate, or as the Director prescribes; and

- (b) Deliver the certificate to the Director with the transferee's application for a new certificate.
- 402.7 If a dealer acquires a vehicle and no certificate or certificate of title is procured by the dealer, that dealer shall, within five (5) business days after acquisition of the vehicle, make application on a form provided by the Director accompanied by such proof of ownership as the Director may reasonably require and the fee prescribed for a dealer's proof of ownership. Upon disposition of the vehicle, the dealer shall assign to the transferee the dealer's proof of ownership.
- 402.8 Only new car dealers, used car dealers, and their salespersons registered in accordance with this title may reassign any certificate, certificate of title, dealer's proof of ownership, or other vehicle ownership documents. A dealer registered as a dealer in motor vehicle equipment or services under this title shall not be so authorized.
- 402.9 Effective September 21, 2004, if all reassignment spaces on the back of a certificate of title are filled in, a dealer may apply to the Director for a Dealer's proof of ownership.

### **403 EFFECT AND CONTENT OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

- 403.1 A certificate shall be valid for the life of the vehicle, as long as the legal title is held by the owner or by the person to whom it is assigned.
- 403.2 Only one (1) valid certificate shall be outstanding for any vehicle at any time.
- 403.3 The certificate shall be mailed or delivered to the first lien holder named in the certificate or, if none, to the owner.
- 403.4 Each certificate issued by the Director shall contain the following:
  - (a) A description, as determined by the Director, of the vehicle and one or more of the following: Lien," "Livery," "new," "taxi," "re-titled," "used," "x commercial," "x livery," "x sightseeing," or "x taxi," the full name and residence address of the owner as shown on the application, and the date of issue of the certificate. This information shall be on the face of the certificate and shall all be over the signature and seal of the Director;
  - (b) The names and addresses of any lien holders in the order of priority shown on the application; or, if the application is based on a certificate or certificates of title, as shown on the certificate(s); and
  - (c) Forms for assignment and warranty of title by the owner, and for assignment and warranty of title by a dealer. The certificate may contain forms for application for a certificate by a transferee.

### **404 NON-NEGOTIABLE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE; SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATES OF TITLE FOR LIENS**

- 404.1 If the Director is not satisfied as to the ownership of a vehicle or that there are no undisclosed security interests in it, the Director may issue a non-negotiable certificate of title.
- 404.2 A non-negotiable certificate shall contain a description of the vehicle and other pertinent identifying information required by the Director and shall conform as nearly as possible to the requirements of § 403, except that the certificate form shall not contain any provision for assignment and warranty of title by the owner or any other person, and the word “NONTRANSFERABLE” shall be inscribed clearly and in large type across the face of the instrument.
- 404.3 Upon receipt of proof of ownership satisfactory to the Director that the owner of the vehicle is entitled to a regular certificate, and upon surrender of the non-negotiable certificate, the Director may issue a certificate to the owner.
- 404.4 Whenever an owner of a vehicle for which a certificate is outstanding gives a lien upon the vehicle and delivers the certificate to the Recorder for the purpose of placing that lien on the certificate, and the Recorder determines that the certificate does not provide sufficient space for the Recorder to place upon its face any or all of the liens against the vehicle, the Recorder shall deliver the certificate to the Director who shall issue a supplementary certificate without fee to the Recorder.

#### **405 SALVAGE TITLE AND NON-REPAIRABLE VEHICLE CERTIFICATE**

- 405.1 For the purposes of determining whether a vehicle is a Salvage Vehicle under § 101 of the Department of Motor Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2004, effective April 8, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-307); the Director shall use the then current National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Guide for the Eastern Region; except that an insurance company may use any fair market value guide regularly used by the insurance company.

#### **406 DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF TITLES**

- 406.1 If a certificate is lost, stolen, destroyed, or illegally detained from the owner; or the Director decides the face or back of the certificate has been altered, erased, or mutilated by a person other than the Director or Recorder; or a certificate cannot be officially altered, the owner shall make application for a duplicate certificate on a form furnished by the Director.
- 406.2 The application shall contain reasons for requiring a duplicate certificate and lien information, if any.
- 406.3 If the application is not accompanied by the certificate and there are recorded liens against the vehicle described on the certificate, the application must contain an executed statement from the lien holders or other evidence satisfactory to the Director that the lien holders do not hold the certificate.
- 406.4 An application which contains information relating to a lien or liens which has(have) not been recorded or released by the Recorder shall be accompanied by the instrument(s) or

any other papers necessary to entitle the lien(s) to be entered or released on the duplicate certificate.

- 406.5 If, at the time of executing the application, an owner disposes of the vehicle described in the application, the owner may execute an assignment of the duplicate certificate for which he or she has just made application.
- 406.6 The assignment shall be on a form attached to the application for the duplicate certificate and that form shall also provide for reassignment of the duplicate certificate by a new or used car dealer and for application for a new certificate by the owner who acquires the vehicle. The assignment (or the assignment and reassignment) is of no value unless and until the application is executed by acquirer and delivered to the Director. In such instances, the Director shall attach the form to the duplicate certificate issued by the Department.
- 406.7 Assignments and reassignments of duplicate certificates shall be considered to be an assignment or reassignment of a certificate as required by this chapter.
- 406.8 An application for a duplicate certificate of title shall be accepted regardless of the status of any outstanding fines, fees and penalties imposed pursuant to the District of Columbia Traffic Adjudication Act of 1978, effective September 12, 1978 (D.C. Law 2-104; D.C. Official Code § 50-2301.01 *et seq.*).

#### **407 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE FOR PRORATED INTERSTATE BUSES**

- 407.1 When the Director is satisfied that an applicant for a certificate is entitled to registration as a prorated interstate bus, and the applicant either does not designate the District as a base state for purposes of registration, or designates the District as a base state for purposes of registration but requests no identification tags, a certificate shall be prepared in the form prescribed by the Director.
- 407.2 The certificate may incorporate by reference a list of vehicles to be covered by that certificate. The list shall contain a description of each vehicle.
- 407.3 The certificate shall be retained by the Director for record purposes and shall not be issued to any person.
- 407.4 If an applicant designates the District as the base state and requests identification tags for the vehicle, the application shall be processed pursuant to the provisions of § § 400 and 403.

#### **408 OFFICIALLY ALTERED CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

- 408.1 Upon the delivery to the Director of a certificate which contains an error which, in the judgment of the Director, does not necessitate the issuance of another certificate, the Director shall make the necessary correction and place the words "officially altered," the date, and his or her signature on the certificate, and deliver it to the person entitled thereto or his or her agent.



- 408.2 Official alterations of certificates by the Department shall be limited to correction of the spelling of owner's name, correction in address of owner, correction of the spelling of the make of vehicle, and corrections in the model or year of the vehicle.
- 408.3 A person who is the owner of a vehicle for which a certificate is outstanding and who changes his or her name by marriage, shall, within thirty (30) days after the marriage, deliver to the Director the certificate accompanied by an executed statement the form provided and containing the information required by the Director.
- 408.4 A person, who is an owner of a vehicle for which a certificate is outstanding, and who changes his or her name other than by marriage shall, within five (5) business days after the change in name, deliver to the Director the certificate accompanied by an executed statement on the form provided and containing the information required by the Director.
- 408.5 The Director, when satisfied that an owner is entitled to a change in the name appearing on a certificate of title, shall make the change and place the words "OFFICIALLY ALTERED," the date, and the Director's signature on the certificate, and deliver it to the person entitled to the altered certificate or the person's agent.

#### **409 INCORRECTLY DRAWN CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

- 409.1 Whenever a certificate is incorrectly drawn by the Director, due to an error on the part of a person other than the Director, the owner shall, within five (5) business days after the error is discovered, return the certificate to the Director with a written statement explaining how the error occurred, containing correct information, and accompanied by the proper fee for a new certificate.
- 409.2 Whenever a certificate is incorrectly drawn due to an error on the part of the Director, the owner shall, within five (5) business days after the error is discovered by him or her, return the certificate to the Director accompanied by a written statement noting the error.
- 409.3 The Director, when satisfied with the statement filed pursuant to § 409.2, shall issue a new certificate without fee, and deliver it to the person entitled to the redrawn certificate or that person's agent.

#### **410 REFUSAL TO ISSUE OR ALTER CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE**

- 410.1 If the Director determines that an applicant for a certificate of title is not entitled to the certificate, or that a person who requests that a certificate be officially altered is not entitled to that alteration, the Director shall refuse to issue the certificate or make the alteration.
- 410.2 The Director may, after notice and hearing, suspend or revoke a certificate issued erroneously, issued as the result of fraud or misrepresentation, or for which the prescribed fee was not paid.

- 410.3 Any order of refusal, suspension, or revocation shall set forth the proposed action and the grounds thereof in sufficient detail to allow the person adversely affected by the order to understand fully the nature of the order and the reasons for issuance.
- 410.4 Any person whose certificate has been refused, suspended, or revoked by the Director may petition for a hearing subject to the provisions of chapter 10.

#### **411 REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 411.1 Except as otherwise provided in this title and § 8 of the District of Columbia Traffic Act of 1925, approved March 3, 1925 ("Act") (43 Stat. 1123; D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.02), no person shall drive or tow, nor shall an owner knowingly permit to be driven or towed, upon any highway of the District of Columbia, any vehicle of a type required to be registered which is not registered; except that a towing vehicle may move an unregistered vehicle over the highways when the front or rear wheels of the towed vehicle are lifted from the highways and remain so lifted during the entire movement.
- 411.2 Any person described in § 8(a) (D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.02(a)) of the Act, or who is displaying a valid District of Columbia reciprocity sticker as provided for in § 411.3 and is in compliance with the laws authorizing the issuance of that sticker, is exempt from the District's license and registration requirements.
- 411.3 The Director shall issue reciprocity stickers, upon application, as follows:
- (a) As required by § 8 (D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.02) of the Act;
  - (b) To any non-resident service member in accordance with section 571 of title 50 of the United States Code; and
  - (c) To any foreign mission, its members, or dependents of its members issued a title and registration by the U.S. Department of State.
- 411.4 Reciprocity stickers issued pursuant to §§ 411.3(b) or (c) shall be issued for the same duration set forth in § 8(d) (D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.02(d)) of the Act.
- 411.5 No reciprocity sticker issued for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days shall be issued to the same person within one (1) year from the expiration date of the previous reciprocity sticker.
- 411.6 The fee for a one hundred and eighty (180) day reciprocity sticker is two hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 250).
- 411.7 REPEALED
- 411.8 REPEALED
- 411.9 The Director shall refuse to issue or renew a reciprocity sticker under any one (1) of the following conditions:

- (a) The owner or operator of the motor vehicle has failed to furnish the insurance information required pursuant to § 411.10;
  - (b) The insurance company listed on the application forms has not complied with 26 DCMR § 503;
  - (c) The insurance policy number or binder number is not in the form or manner utilized by the insurance company; or
  - (a) The certificate of self-insurance listed on the application form is invalid.
- 411.10 The application for a reciprocity sticker shall contain space for the applicant to furnish the following information:
- (a) The name of the insurance company that will provide the applicant with a motor vehicle insurance policy;
  - (b) The insurance policy number or binder number;
  - (c) The applicant's signature; and
  - (d) Any other information that the Director may require.
- 411.11 The Director shall suspend or revoke a person's registration or reciprocity sticker for any one of the following reasons:
- (a) The person has been convicted of a violation of the No-Fault Insurance Act;
  - (b) The person has falsely certified to the Director that the motor vehicle is insured pursuant to the No-Fault Insurance Act.
  - (c) The person operates or permits the operation of an uninsured motor vehicle;
  - (d) The person possesses a current registration certificate or reciprocity sticker without possessing the motor vehicle insurance required pursuant to the No-Fault Insurance Act; or
  - (e) The person has provided the Director with false or inaccurate information as requested by the Director pursuant to § 411.10 or § 413.12.
  - (f) The person has been convicted of driving under the influence of liquor or drugs in violation of section 10(b) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 who has previously been convicted of violating a provision of that section. The Director may establish conditions for an exception to revocation under this subsection, to be granted on an individual basis, to avoid undue hardship to any individual who is completely dependent on the motor vehicle for the necessities of life, including any family member of the convicted individual, and any co-owner of the motor vehicle, but not including the offender.
  - (g) The person has falsified any certification required pursuant to § 5 of the Clean Hands Act (D.C. Code § 47-2864).

411.12 At the discretion of the Director, the suspension period shall not exceed ninety (90) days and the revocation period shall be for a period not less than six (6) months and the revocation ordered pursuant to subsection 411.11(g) shall be in effect until the person provides proof that the excess outstanding debt has been satisfied; except that the period for a revocation ordered pursuant to subsection 411.11(f) shall be for one (1) year.

411.13 At the end of a period of suspension or revocation the registration certificate or reciprocity sticker shall be reissued and restored to the person suspended or revoked when the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The person applies for the registration or the reciprocity sticker to be reissued or restored;
- (b) The person has obtained a valid and current motor vehicle insurance policy, and provided proof satisfactory thereof to the Director; and
- (c) The person has paid the reinstatement fee of ninety-eight dollars (\$98); Provided, that the person shall not avoid paying the reinstatement fee by applying for registration when the reciprocity sticker has been suspended or revoked or when the period of suspension or revocation has expired.

## **412. REFUSAL OF REGISTRATION**

412.1 The Director shall refuse registration and shall withhold issuance of any application for re-registration on any of the following grounds:

- (a) If the application contains any false or fraudulent statement or if the applicant has failed to furnish required information or reasonable additional information requested by the Director or if the applicant is not entitled to the issuance of certificate or registration of the vehicle under this chapter;
- (b) If the vehicle has not been inspected as required, is unsafe or improperly equipped, or is mechanically unfit to be operated upon the highways;
- (c) If the required fee has not been paid or if a check given in payment of any fee required by this chapter has been dishonored;
- (d) If the registrant has failed to respond to any warrant issued by request of any police authority in the District as a result of any traffic or motor vehicle parking violation;
- (e) If the registrant has failed to pay a civil fine imposed pursuant to the District of Columbia Traffic Adjudication Act except as provided by § 3007.5 or as otherwise provided by law.
- (f) If the registrant has failed to furnish the insurance information required pursuant to § 413.12;

- (g) If the insurance company listed by the registrant is not licensed by the District of Columbia Department of Insurance;
- (h) If the insurance policy number or binder number listed by the registrant is not in the form or manner utilized by the listed insurance company;
- (i) If the certificate of self-insurance listed by the registrant is invalid;
- (j) If the registrant has not complied with the provisions of section 619 of this Title;
- (k) Grounds established by the Clean Hands Act (D.C. Code § 47-2861 et seq.);
- (l) If a person holds an out-of-state operator's permit and fails to surrender that permit to the Department; or
- (m) If a person is not domiciled in the District of Columbia.
- (n) Has been issued a Salvage Title or Non-Repairable Vehicle Certificate.
- (o) If the person is required to pay the heavy use vehicle tax, as described in section 4481 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, added June 29, 1956 (70 Stat. 390, 26 U.S.C. § 4481), and does not submit proof of payment as required by section 141(c) of the Federal Aid Highway Amendments of 1974, added January 4, 1975 (Pub. L 93-643, 23 U.S.C. 141).

## **413 APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION**

413.1 REPEALED

413.2 REPEALED

413.3 Each application shall contain the information that appears on the certificate that is outstanding for the vehicle, including the current residence address of the applicant and any other information as the Director may determine. The Director shall deliver the application to the owner whose name appears on it or to the owner's agent.

413.4 The Director shall not prepare an application for registration for a vehicle unless and until the owner of the vehicle has secured a certificate of title for the vehicle.

413.5 When satisfied that the owner named in the application is entitled to registration of the vehicle described in the application, and upon receipt of all fees prescribed in this chapter (including a delivery charge to be determined by the Director in the event the owner desires identification tags or special bus identification forwarded to him or her), the Director shall issue to the owner a registration card and two (2) owner's identification tags.

413.6 Only one (1) identification tag shall be issued for a motorized bicycle, motorcycle, or trailer.

413.7 Identification tags shall be of the size, color, design, and material prescribed by the Director.

413.8 Identification tags are to be used solely for the operation of the vehicle described on the registration card

413.9 The Director, when satisfied that the owner named in the application is entitled to registration of a prorated interstate bus and does not request identification tags, shall issue to such owner a registration card and in place of identification tags a special bus identification sticker. Each sticker shall be used solely for the operation of the bus described on the registration card which accompanied the sticker at the time of issuance.

413.10 Any application for a vehicle to be used as a taxicab, bus, for livery, for sightseeing purposes, or as a hearse shall be presented to an inspection station, accompanied by the vehicle. If the inspection station approves the vehicle for such use, the approval shall be placed on the application by the inspection station.

413.11 Each application for registration of the following types of vehicles shall be accompanied by a certificate of inspection and approval from an inspection station: motor cranes, commercial vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, motorcycles, and all vehicles sold at public auction.

413.12 The application for registration shall contain space for the applicant to furnish the following information:

- (a) The name of the insurance company that has provided the applicant with a motor vehicle insurance policy;
  - (b) The insurance policy number or binder number;
  - (c) The applicant's signature;
  - (d) The applicant's social security number; and
  - (e) Any other information that the Director may require.
- 413.13 Motor Vehicles, other than buses, displaying irremovable commercial advertisement or insignia may be considered commercial vehicles by the Director for registration purposes.

#### 414 CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF REGISTRANT

- 414.1 If a registrant changes his or her address, that registrant shall, not more than thirty (30) days after relocating to the new address, shall surrender the old registration card to the Director and apply for an updated registration card.
- 414.2 Upon receipt of the notice, the Director shall place the new address upon the Department records.

#### 415 SURRENDER OF OWNER'S IDENTIFICATION TAGS AND REGISTRATION CARD

- 415.1 A registrant who loses or disposes of his or her ownership of a vehicle for which valid registration is outstanding shall remove, or cause to be removed, the owner's identification tags from the vehicle.
- 415.2 Any person who acquires ownership of a vehicle on which are displayed identification tags issued to another person by the District or any other jurisdiction, shall remove the tags and deliver them, with the registration card (if it is in the vehicle at the time of acquisition) to the owner of the tags or the Director, not later than the next business day following acquisition. If the tags are returned to the owner and he or she is a registrant, he or she shall comply with the provisions of § 415.3 of this section.
- 415.3 Unless the registrant shall within five (5) business days (which time may be extended by the Director for cause shown) after the loss or disposal of ownership, acquire another vehicle, he or his agent shall, within that time, deliver to the Director the owner's identification tags accompanied by the registration card.
- 415.4 Upon receiving the registration card and identification tags, the Director shall issue, upon demand, a receipt thereof and cancel the registration and tags. Those tags shall not be issued to any other person during the then current registration period and may be mutilated or disposed of by the Director.

415.5 The registrant and the holder of a reciprocity sticker shall immediately return to the Director the identification tags and registration certificate, or the reciprocity sticker when any one of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The registrant or the individual no longer possesses a valid motor vehicle insurance policy or a valid certificate of self-insurance required pursuant to the No-Fault Insurance Act;
- (b) The motor vehicle is no longer insured pursuant to the No-Fault Insurance Act;
- (c) The registrant's registration or the individual's reciprocity privileges have been revoked or suspended pursuant to this title;
- (d) The identification tags, registration certificate, or reciprocity sticker was issued in error, following written notice by the Department.

#### **416 TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION TO ANOTHER VEHICLE**

416.1 A registrant who acquires a vehicle and desires the transfer of identification tags from a vehicle currently registered in his or her name to the newly-acquired vehicle shall, within five (5) business days after the acquirement, request the Director to prepare an application to transfer the valid registration and owner's identification tags to the newly-acquired vehicle.

416.2 The request shall be accompanied by the following:

- (a) An executed application for a certificate of title for the newly-acquired vehicle;
- (b) All required fees (for the certificate; excise tax, if any; fee for transfer of registration; and fee for mechanical inspection, if any, for the newly-acquired vehicle); and
- (c) Valid registration card for the earlier-acquired vehicle or an executed statement explaining its absence.

416.3 Upon receipt of the request, accompanied by the items listed in § 416.2, the Director shall prepare an application for the transfer containing the information which appears on the certificate for the newly-acquired vehicle and other information that the Director may desire, including the number of the owner's identification tags, and deliver it to the owner whose name appears on the request or the owner's agent.

416.4 The acquired vehicle shall not be operated with the owner's identification tags assigned for use on the earlier-acquired vehicle, unless and until a transfer of registration has been issued by the Director.

416.5 When a vehicle is acquired from a new car dealer or used car dealer and the required items are delivered to the dealer for delivery to the Director, the acquired vehicle may be operated on the owner's identification tags of the earlier-acquired vehicle for a period not to exceed ~~twenty (20)~~ forty-five (45) days, unless extended by the Director.



- 416.6 In addition to the requirements of §§ 416.4 and 416.5, the acquired vehicle shall also conform to the Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Standards and a temporary registration card shall be issued to the registrant by the dealer, as provided in § 505, and accompany the vehicle while being operated.
- 416.7 The dealer shall deliver to the Director all papers and fees required by §§ 416.1 and 416.2 within five (5) business days after issuance of the temporary registration card.
- 416.8 If one or more of the joint registrants of a vehicle for which a valid registration is outstanding acquires the interest or interests of one or more of the other joint owners by death, the surviving joint registrant(s) shall, within five (5) business days after acquiring the interest, request the Director to prepare an application to transfer the registration.
- 416.9 The request for transfer of interest shall be accompanied by the following:
- (a) An executed application for a certificate of title;
  - (b) Fees for the certificate of title and transfer; and
  - (c) The valid registration card in the names of the joint owners.
- 416.10 Upon receipt by the Director of a request for transfer of interest, accompanied by the required items, the Director shall prepare an application for the transfer containing the information which appears on the certificate issued to the owner who has acquired the interest, and deliver it to the owner or the agent of the owner.
- 416.11 When satisfied that the registrant named in the application is entitled to transfer registration to the vehicle described in the application, the Director shall mark the records of the Department accordingly and issue to the owner a registration card marked "TRANSFER" and deliver the card to the registrant or his or her agent.
- 416.12 Identification tags issued in connection with the registration of a motor vehicle or trailer may not be transferred to another owner or owners, except under the following circumstances.
- (a) For tags bearing the identification numbered "1," "2," and "3," assigned respectively to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, and the City Administrator;
  - (b) For tags bearing the identification "Chairman, City Council," "Council Member, At-Large A" through "Council Member, At-Large D," inclusive; "Council Member Ward 1" through "Council Member, Ward 8," inclusive, assigned to members of the Council of the District of Columbia; and
  - (c) For tags bearing the identification "Member U.S. Congress 1," issued to the District of Columbia's Delegate to the United States Congress.

#### **417 LOST, STOLEN, OR MUTILATED IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 417.1 If identification tags issued by the Director for use on a vehicle are lost or stolen, the person suffering the loss or theft shall report that fact to a Metropolitan Police Department precinct within twenty-four (24) hours after discovery of the loss or theft.
- 417.2 If the person desires to replace lost or stolen identification tags, he or she shall, within five (5) business days after discovery of the loss, surrender any remaining identification tag and the registration card and make application to the Director for a new registration card and new identification tags.
- 417.3 The application shall be accompanied by the registration card for the lost or stolen tags or a statement explaining the loss.
- 417.4 If the applicant's tags were stolen, the application shall also be accompanied by a statement over the signature of a duly authorized member of the Metropolitan Police Department Auto Theft Section that a report of the theft has been received by the Auto Theft Section.
- 417.5 If the applicant's tags were lost, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement filed with the Director explaining the circumstances surrounding the loss of the tags.
- 417.6 If the identification tags issued by the Director for use on a motor vehicle or trailer become mutilated, and the person whose name appeared on the registration card which accompanied the tags at the time of issue desires new tags, he or she shall, within five (5) business days after the tags become mutilated, make application to the Director for a new registration card and new identification tags.
- 417.7 The application shall contain the facts relating to the mutilation and other information required by the Director. The application shall be accompanied by the registration card for the mutilated tags or a written statement explaining its absence), and the mutilated tags. The Director, upon demand, will issue a receipt for the mutilated tags.

#### **418 DUPLICATE REGISTRATION CARD**

- 418.1 If a registration card for valid identification tags is lost, stolen, destroyed, or mutilated, or if the registrant desires another registration card for any reason satisfactory to the Director, the Director shall prepare a duplicate registration card.
- 418.2 When satisfied that an applicant for a duplicate registration card is entitled to it, the Director shall issue the duplicate card and deliver it to the registrant or the registrant's agent.
- 418.3 The face of the duplicate registration card shall contain the same information and identification tag number that appeared on the original registration card.

#### **419 OFFICIALLY ALTERED REGISTRATION CARD**

- 419.1 Upon delivery to the Director of a registration card which contains an error which, in the judgment of the Director, does not necessitate the issuance of another card, the Director

shall make the necessary correction and place the words "OFFICIALLY ALTERED," the date, and the Director's signature on the card and deliver it to the registrant or the registrant's agent.

419.2 A registrant who changes his or her name by marriage shall, within thirty (30) days after the marriage, deliver to the Director his or her registration card accompanied by a written statement on a form provided by the Director and containing the information required by the Director.

419.3 A registrant who changes his or her name other than by marriage, shall within five (5) business days after the change, deliver to the Director, his or her registration card accompanied by a written statement on a form provided by the Director and containing the information required by the Director.

419.4 When satisfied that a registrant is entitled to a change in the name appearing on his or her card, the Director shall make the change and place the words "OFFICIALLY ALTERED," the date, and the Director's signature on the card and deliver it to the registrant or the registrant's agent.

#### **420 REGISTRATION CARD INCORRECTLY DRAWN**

420.1 Whenever a registration card is incorrectly drawn, the registrant shall, within five (5) business days after such error becomes apparent, return the registration card to the Director.

420.2 The Director, when satisfied such registration card is incorrectly drawn, shall issue a new registration card.

#### **421 REGISTRATION CARD TO BE CARRIED AND EXHIBITED ON DEMAND**

421.1 Whenever a motor vehicle for which current registration is required is being operated upon any public highway, or trailer for which current registration is required is being moved upon any public highway, and owner's identification tags are displayed on the motor vehicle or trailer, the registration card for the motor vehicle or trailer shall at all times be carried in the vehicle to which it refers or shall be carried by the person driving or in control of the vehicle, who shall display the registration card, upon demand, to a police officer or the Director.

421.2 The requirements of this section shall not apply when the card is used for the purpose of making application for renewal of registration or upon a transfer of registration of the vehicle.

#### **422 DISPLAY OF IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

422.1 Whenever a motor vehicle or trailer for which District of Columbia registration is required is being operated or left standing upon any public highway, such vehicle shall display two (2) current identification tags, one (1) on the front and the other on the rear;

except that motor vehicles need only display a special use identification tag on the rear of the vehicle only.

- 422.2 Motorized bicycles, motorcycles, trailers, and vehicles identified by a dealer's tag or manufacturer's tag shall display only one (1) valid identification tag on the rear of the vehicle.
- 422.3 A vehicle owned by a non-resident and currently registered in another jurisdiction shall display the proper identification tag or tags issued for the vehicle in accordance with the requirements of the issuing jurisdiction.
- 422.4 Owner's identification tags shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which they are issued so as to prevent the tags from swinging and at a height of not less than twelve inches (12 in.) from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the tags, in a place and position to be clearly visible.
- 422.5 Identification tags shall be maintained free from foreign materials and in a clearly legible condition. For the purposes of this subsection, foreign materials shall include any non-transparent materials placed on or over the tag(s); any expired or any unauthorized decals or stickers; or any markings or attachments of any kind, except as permitted by § 422.6.
- 422.6 No sign or emblem more than twenty-four square inches (24 in.<2>) in area shall be attached to any license tag bracket nor shall any sign or emblem be so located as to obstruct from view any part of the identification tags.
- 422.7 Validation stickers issued by the Director that indicate the expiration of a motor vehicle's registration period are required to be displayed as follows:
- (a) For vehicles registered prior to April 22, 2002, and all motorized bicycles, motorcycles, and trailers, the stickers shall be affixed to the tags; the month sticker placed at the lower left corner and the year sticker place at the lower right corner; and
  - (b) For vehicles not listed in (a), the sticker shall be affixed to the inside of the vehicle's windshield, on the driver's side.
- 422.8 No person shall operate a vehicle where the identification tag's identifying numbers or letters are covered with glass, plastic, or any other type of material or substance.
- 422.9 A person operating a vehicle in violation of § 422.8 shall be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500).

#### **423 PERSONALIZED IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 423.1 The Director is authorized to issue a special series of vehicle identification tags to be lettered or numbered, or both, as desired by the applicant; except that numbers 1 through 1,250 and such other combinations of letters and numbers as the Director shall determine shall not be available for purposes of this section.

- 423.2 Registration of vehicles bearing personalized identification tags shall comply with all laws and rules in effect for the registration of motor vehicles generally.
- 423.3 Personalized tags shall only be issued for use on registered private passenger vehicles.
- 423.4 Application for personalized tags may be made informally by letter, accompanied by a reservation fee check for twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) made payable to the order of the D. C. Treasurer.
- 423.5 Payment of the fee entitles the person in whose name the tags are to be registered to reservation of the numbered or lettered tags of his or her choice, if available at the time of application. If available, the combination applied for shall be reserved for one (1) year from the date of approval of the reservation. The applicant shall be notified promptly that the reservation has been approved.
- 423.6 The reservation fee of twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) shall be deposited with the D.C. Treasurer after the applicant's reservation has been confirmed. If the combination requested is not available, the reservation fee shall be returned to the applicant immediately.
- 423.7 If the reservation fee has been deposited, no refund shall be made unless there has been an erroneous collection of the fee by the Director.
- 423.8 Applicants may make any number of reservations desired, and may request reservations for any combination of letters or numbers or both, as desired, not to exceed seven (7) positions on a tag, including spaces between the letters or numbers.
- 423.9 The reservation may be made, and invalidated sets of tags may be issued, without reference to any specified vehicle; Provided, that the invalidated tags may not be used as owner's identification tags, displayed on any motor vehicle, or otherwise presented as evidence of the registration of any motor vehicle.
- 423.10 The reservation shall terminate at the end of the one (1) or two (2) year registration period for which a motor vehicle has not been registered under the reservation; Provided, that prior to the expiration of the registration period, the person in whose name the reservation was made may renew the reservation for another registration period by payment of a new twenty-five dollars (\$ 25) reservation fee.
- 423.11 If a motor vehicle has been registered in connection with a reservation, the Director may issue validated personalized identification tags for that vehicle, and the reservation shall be maintained by the Director so long as the vehicle, or a substitute vehicle, is registered.
- 423.12 The applicant may, prior to the time the personalized tags are validated, amend the application with respect to the name of the person or organization in whose name the tags have been reserved.
- 423.13 The Director shall reject any proposed tag content that conveys a message, or displays an image, that is confusing or offensive to the general public.
- 423.14 For purposes of § 423.13, the Director shall reject any combination of letters or numbers that:

- (a) Is vulgar, derogatory, profane, scatological or obscene, with any connotation, in any language;
  - (b) Connote, in any language, breast, genitalia, pubic area, or buttocks or relate to sexual or eliminatory functions.
  - (c) Connote, in any language, (i) any illicit drug, narcotic, intoxicant, or related paraphernalia; (ii) the sale, user, or purveyor of such a substance; or (iii) the physiological state produced by such a substance;
  - (d) Refer, in any language, to a race, religion, color, deity, ethnic heritage, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or political affiliation;
  - (e) Suggest, in any language, a government or governmental agency;
  - (f) Suggest, in any language, a privilege not given by law in this state; or
  - (g) Form, in any language, a slang term, abbreviation, phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word described in this subsection.
- 423.15 When personalized tags have been surrendered pursuant to § 415, or they are no longer authorized for use by the person to whom they were issued, except as provided in §§ 424 and 425, the tag content shall not be available to anyone other than the prior holder for a two (2) year period.

#### **424 ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONALIZED IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 424.1 An owner may assign his reservation in a personalized tag by giving to the assignee a release that terminates any further obligation of the Department to reserve the personalized identification tags reserved in the name of the assignor.
- 424.2 The assignment may not become effective until the beginning of the one (1) year or two (2) year registration period following that in which the assignor last registered his or her vehicle under the personalized tag reserved.
- 424.3 The assignee shall apply and pay for a reservation in the manner prescribed in § 423.

#### **425 TRANSFER OF PERSONALIZED IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 425.1 Personalized tags may be transferred to a transferee of a motor vehicle at any time upon payment by the transferee of the twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) reservation fee and all other fees required by law in the following circumstances:
- (a) Where a motor vehicle is registered in the name of a husband or wife, one of whom died leaving a will providing that the vehicle be deeded over to the surviving spouse;

- (b) Where a joint ownership in a motor vehicle exists and ownership of the vehicle is transferred from both owners to either owner; and
  - (c) Where ownership of a motor vehicle in one or more persons is modified so that a joint ownership is created between the original owner or owners and an additional owner or owners.
- 425.2 Personalized tags may be transferred at any time without payment of the twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) reservation fee, upon payment by the transferee of a two dollars (\$ 2.00) transfer fee and all other fees required by law, in the following circumstances:
- (a) Where one party of a joint ownership in a motor vehicle dies and the surviving owner assumes ownership of the vehicle; and
  - (b) Where one spouse transfers ownership to both spouses jointly.
- 425.3 Personalized tags on leased vehicles may be transferred by the owner of such tags from one motor vehicle to another at any time in the following circumstances:
- (a) Where a person owns personalized tags for use on a leased vehicle and leases a replacement vehicle provided that the owner-lessee remains the same person, corporation, or other entity. In such cases a transfer fee of two dollars (\$ 2.00) and any other fee required by law shall be paid by the lessee, but no reservation fee shall be required; and
  - (b) Where a person leases a replacement vehicle from a lessor different from the lessor-owner who owned the vehicle from which such tags are to be transferred. In such cases, the twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) reservation fee shall be paid in addition to all other fees required by law.
- 425.4 In all other cases not described in this section, transfer of personalized tags may take place only by an assignment under the provisions of § 424.

## **426 SPECIAL USE IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 426.1 Upon request, the Director shall prepare and issue to any person special use identification tags and special use certificates to accompany such tags for use on a vehicle in connection with the acceptance of delivery of the vehicle, for official inspection of the vehicle, and for other purposes set forth in this section.
- 426.2 Special use tags may be issued under circumstances in which it would be unreasonable or impractical to obtain a registration for a motor vehicle. The Director has authority to establish the specific purposes for which special use tags may be issued under this section.
- 426.3 Special use tags shall be limited to the following purposes:
- (a) To move unregistered motor vehicles or trailers from a point within the District to an inspection station in connection with the issuance of certificate or registration;

- (b) To move an unregistered motor vehicle or trailer acquired outside the District by a resident of the District from the point of purchase to an inspection station in connection with the issuance of a certificate or registration;
  - (c) For the use of a nonresident who acquires a motor vehicle or trailer from an owner located in the District for the purpose of moving the vehicle or trailer to another jurisdiction; and
  - (d) For other special uses approved by the Director or his or her designee.
- 426.4 Special use tags shall not constitute registration of a motor vehicle as required by § 2(a), Title IV, of the Act of August 17, 1937, as amended, and are not transferable.
- 426.5 Special use tags shall be issued for a period not to exceed ~~twenty (20)~~ forty-five (45) days. The Director may, in his discretion for good cause shown, upon payment of the proper fee, issue special use tags for an additional ~~twenty (20)~~ forty-five (45) day period or periods.
- 426.6 Special use identification tags shall be displayed in the same manner required for the display of motor vehicle identification tags in § 422 of this chapter.
- 426.7 Special use certificates shall be carried in the vehicle bearing the special use tags for which the special use certificate was issued whenever the vehicle is being operated on the highways.
- 426.8 Upon removal of special use tags from a vehicle, they shall be destroyed immediately by the person to whom issued or by his agent.
- 426.9 The form, content, size, and type of special use tags shall be determined by the Director, except as specifically prescribed in this section.
- 426.10 All entries on special use tags except the expiration date shall be legibly printed on each tag issued with a waterproof crayon or waterproof ink marking device.
- 426.11 Special use certificates and special use identification tags shall contain the following:
- (a) The applicant's true and lawful given name, middle name or names, if any, and surname;
  - (b) The applicant's correct residence address;
  - (c) A description setting forth the vehicle's trade name, model, year as given by the manufacturer, body type, and vehicle identification number;
  - (d) The date of expiration; and
  - (e) The purpose of use of such tags shall be stated on the special use certificate.



- 426.12 The date of expiration shall be imprinted legibly on such special use identification tags in black ink with a rubber stamp in letters and numerals not less than three quarters of an inch (3/4 in.) in height, and not less than one-eighth of an inch (1/8 in.) in width.
- 426.13 Special use identification tags shall only be issued to persons submitting, in addition to any other items required by the Director, the following:
- (a) Bill of sale for the vehicle, if purchased from a car dealer;
  - (b) Signed certificate of title, or fax as provided by § 426.14, or other proof of ownership satisfactory to the Director; and
  - (c) Proof of sufficient insurance coverage.
- 426.14 Any dealer or financing company may fax a copy of a vehicle's title or dealer's proof of ownership, front and back, to the Department to establish proof of ownership as required by § 426.13(b); except that the Department reserves the right to require the submission of the original documents.
- 426.15 The Director shall not issue special use identification tags to residents of Maryland or Virginia, except as provided in § 426.16.
- 426.16 Any dealer registered in the District of Columbia or their agent may obtain a special use identification tag by appearing at the Department on behalf of a customer from any jurisdiction; provided, that the customer authorizes the dealer to act as their agent by signing the form provided to the dealer by the Department.
- 426.17 If a vehicle displaying a valid special use identification tag fails motor vehicle safety or emissions inspection, the initial special use identification tag may be removed by the DMV inspection station staff and a replacement special use identification tag may be issued.

## **427 MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURER IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

- 427.1 Motor vehicle manufacturers or their branch office may be issued manufacturer identification tags, to be displayed only on new vehicles withdrawn from inventory or stock prior to the sale thereof, and to be used only if directly in furtherance of the business of the manufacturer; provided, the manufacturer:
- (a) Is actively engaged in promoting its vehicles in the District of Columbia; and
  - (b) Has an established place of business in the District of Columbia located on a street or avenue.
- 427.2 An applicant may be issued manufacturer identification tags when the applicant's premises are located within an office building although the applicant has not been issued an occupancy permit.
- 427.3 Manufacturer identification tags shall not be issued to finance companies.

- 427.4 For the purposes of this section, a manufacturer is a company or corporation in the business of engineering, assembling and promoting new motor vehicles in any jurisdiction .
- 427.5 An applicant for manufacturer tags shall provide the following:
- (a) Name of the person authorized to apply for the tags, together with proof of authorization;
  - (b) The name of the manufacturer, and the trade name if different;
  - (c) The location of the manufacturer's headquarters and all business locations in the District of Columbia;
  - (d) A valid federal tax identification number;
  - (e) Names of employees who will be using the tags, and proof of employment satisfactory to the Director; and
  - (f) Any additional information the Director may require.
- 427.6 Manufacturer identification tags shall only be used by the following persons:
- (a) An employee of the manufacturer, provided the employee possesses an identification card issued by the manufacturer indicating the employee is authorized to operate vehicles owned by the manufacturer.
  - (b) The manufacturer's customer, provided:
    - (1) The customer is accompanied by an employee of the manufacturer; or
    - (2) The customer possesses a temporary registration certificate issued pursuant to § 427.7.
- 427.7 Temporary registration certificates provided for in § 427.9 shall be issued by the manufacturer or branch office, subject to the same requirements in § 505 applicable to dealers.
- 427.8 Manufacturer identification tags shall bear the abbreviation "MFR".
- 427.9 Manufacturer identification tags shall be issued in the following amounts: one (1) per full-time, District-based employee, and one (1) additional tag for every three (3) such employees identified in the application .
- 427.10 Any manufacturer or branch office determined by the Director, after a hearing, to be in violation of this section, or to have submitted erroneous information on its application under § 427.6, shall immediately surrender all manufacturer tags in their possession and shall not be eligible for additional tags for at least one (1) year.

- 427.11 Any manufacturer receiving tags under this section shall have motor vehicle insurance that covers the number of vehicles that can be operated using all the tags issued to that manufacturer.
- 427.12 Any tag issued pursuant to this section shall expire on October 31 of each year.
- 427.13 For each tag issued under this section, the Director shall charge the fee authorized by § 3 of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17 1937 (50 Stat. 679; D.C. Official Code § 50-1501.01).

## **428 SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOR EVENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

- 428.1 Subject to the Mayor's approval of each issuance of motor vehicle identification tags authorized by this section, the Director shall provide and issue tags of special design for the use before, during, and after occasions of national significance.
- 428.2 Special event tags may be issued for use on vehicles duly registered in any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States, and in the District of Columbia.
- 428.3 Special event tags issued under this section are to be substituted temporarily for the standard motor vehicle identification tags issued for vehicles, or for special use identification tags issued by the District of Columbia or by any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for vehicles used in the District of Columbia in connection with carrying on the official business of the occasion.
- 428.4 Special event tags shall be valid for a period of time, not to exceed ten (10) days, as may be approved by the Mayor for each issuance of special event tags.
- 428.5 The Director is authorized to enter into agreements, reciprocal or otherwise, for the recognition of special event tags in the several States, Territories, or Possessions of the United States.

## **429 ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTRATION AND RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 429.1 All motor vehicle owners and operators who are legal residents of the District shall comply with all District motor vehicle licensing and registration laws, regulations and rules.
- 429.2 Motor vehicle owners and operators who are not legal residence of the District but who are housing a motor vehicle within the District shall comply with §§ 411.3, 411.6, 411.7, and 411.8.
- 429.3 This section shall be enforced as follows:

- (a) When an issuing officer observes a motor vehicle housed within the District that does not display District registration tags or a current reciprocity sticker the issuing officer shall record the following:
    - (1) Date;
    - (2) Time;
    - (3) Location; and
    - (4) Vehicle tag number and jurisdiction of registration.
  - (b) If, after fifteen (15) days of the first sighting, an issuing officer observes the same vehicle housed within the District, the officer shall attach a warning notice stating that the vehicle may be in violation of the motor vehicle registration and licensing laws, regulations and rules of the District. The warning notice shall advise the owner or operator of the vehicle that enforcement actions including, but not limited to, impoundment may be taken after fifteen (15) days (“warning period”) if the vehicle is not in compliance with the District’s registration laws, regulations, and rules.
- 429.4 A person may comply with the motor vehicle registration laws, regulations and rules by doing the following:
- (a) Obtaining District registration;
  - (b) Obtaining a reciprocity sticker; or
  - (c) Demonstrating that the motor vehicle is not in violation of District motor vehicle licensing and registration laws, regulations and rules.
- 429.5 Any further observation of the non-complying motor vehicle after the warning period shall result in a notice of infraction being issued against the owner or operator for violation of District motor vehicle licensing and registration laws, regulations, and rules. The notice of infraction shall note the date that warning notice was affixed.
- 429.6 Each daily observation shall constitute a separate violation and shall result in the issuance of a separate notice of infraction.

#### **430 VERIFICATION OF INSURANCE INFORMATION**

- 430.1 The Director may, at any time, request that an insurance company verify the insurance information provided by a person pursuant to § § 411.10, 413.12, or 430.4 of this chapter.
- 430.2 An insurance company shall respond to the Director’s request within ten (10) business days, except as provided in § 430.5 of this section.

- 430.3 The Director may, at any time, request that a person verify or provide additional information on the insurance information previously provided by that person pursuant to § § 411.10, 413.12, or 430.4 of this chapter.
- 430.4 A person shall respond to the Director's request within fifteen (15) business days.
- 430.5 Within thirty (30) days following the effective date of any cancellation, termination, or expiration of any motor vehicle insurance policy the insurance company shall notify the Department of the cancellation, termination, or expiration.
- 430.6 Any notice of cancellation, expiration or termination sent pursuant to § 430.5 shall contain the following:
- (a) The full name and address of the insured;
  - (b) The insurance policy number or binder number;
  - (c) The expiration or termination date of the motor vehicle insurance policy;
  - (d) The Operator's permit number, if known, of the insured;
  - (e) The corresponding vehicle identification number(s), if known; and
  - (f) Any other information the Director may require.
- 430.7 An insurance company shall not notify the Director of the termination, expiration, or cancellation of a motor vehicle insurance policy if the termination, expiration, or cancellation is due to the replacement of one covered vehicle with another covered vehicle under the same policy or another policy issued by the same insurer or another insurer in the same group. Notice is also not required if a policy is replaced by another policy or policies covering the same vehicle or vehicles issued by the same insurer or another insurer in the same insurance group.
- 430.8 Based upon the information received by the Director pursuant to this title or based upon the failure of a person to provide the information requested pursuant to this section, the Director may order the suspension or revocation of a license, reciprocity sticker, or registration certificate pursuant to the provisions of this title or may refer the matter to the Corporation Counsel for prosecution.
- 430.9 An insurance company shall provide to the Director by October 1, 1983, the following:
- (a) The current policy number series or binder number format utilized by that insurance company for motor vehicle insurance policies sold or offered to be sold in the District;
  - (b) The name, title, address, and phone number of a designated contact person to the Department on insurance verification matters; and
  - (c) The information processing address to which verification requests are to be sent.

430.10 The information required pursuant to § 430.9 of this section shall be updated as necessary by the insurance company.

430.11 Effective June 1, 2005, the notices required by § 430.5 shall be submitted or transmitted in electronic files, following the procedures for such submissions or transmissions established by the Department.

#### **431 IMMOBILIZATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

431.1 Whenever a motor vehicle that is not registered in the District and that has not been issued a reciprocity sticker is immobilized pursuant to District law, regulations, or rule the Department shall release that motor vehicle when the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The owner or operator of the motor vehicle certifies, on a form supplied by the Director, that the motor is insured pursuant to the No-Fault Insurance Act; ~~and~~
- (b) The owner or operator has paid all applicable fees, fines, and penalties; and
- (c) The owner presents proof they were issued a valid:
  - (1) Registration;
  - (2) Special use identification tag; or
  - (3) Reciprocity permit.

431.2 The Director may immobilize a motor vehicle when the owner does not possess a motor vehicle insurance policy; provided, that the person's registration or reciprocity sticker has been suspended or revoked pursuant to § 411.

#### **432 EXCEPTIONS TO INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

432.1 Subsections 302.10, 302.11, 302.12, 411.9, 411.11, 412.1(f), 412.1(g), 412.1(h), 412.1(i), 415.5, 430 and 431 shall not apply to or be applicable to the following persons:

- (a) Owners or operators of motorcycles, motorized bicycles, or mopeds;
- (b) Owners or operators of taxicabs; and
- (c) Owners or operators of trailers, semi-trailers, or pole trailers which are without motor power.

#### **433 ORGANIZATION TAGS**

433.1 The Director may issue a tag bearing markings related to an organization ("Organization Tag") only if the tag has been established by the Council of the District of Columbia or approved by the Director as provided in this section.

- 433.2 An organization seeking the Director's approval of an organizational tag must be a non-profit corporation, as that term is defined § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (46 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)), and must submit an application to the Director.
- 433.3 The application shall include:
- a) A sample of the proposed markings;
  - b) A copy of the organization's charter or articles of incorporation;
  - c) Proof of the organization's non-profit status;
  - d) Signatures from at least twenty-five (25) members of the organization attesting to their intent to display the organization tag proposed; and
  - e) Proof that the person submitting the application is authorized by the organization to submit that application.
- 433.4 The Director reserves the right to reject any proposed organization tag content that conveys a message, or displays an image that is offensive to the general public.
- 433.5 The format of any organization tag design shall be approved by the Director and shall not obscure any of the lettering or numbering on the tag.
- 433.6 Any person requesting an organization tag must, in addition to payment of the annual and reservation fees provided for in Section 3(a) of Title IV of the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1937, approved August 17, 1937 (50 Stat. 679; D.C. Official Code § 50-1501.03(a)), provide evidence that the person is a member of that organization.
- 433.7 Upon notification that a person is no longer a member of the organization, the Director may notify that person that they must surrender, within thirty (30) days of notice, the organization tags in their possession.
- 433.8 The Director may rescind or revoke any organization tag issued to person who fails to surrender their tag as provided in § 433.7.
- 433.9 Organization tags shall only be issued for use on registered private passenger vehicles.

#### **434 APPORTIONABLE VEHICLES**

- 434.1 Trip permits for apportionable vehicles, as defined in section 2 of the International Registration Plan Agreement Act of 1997, effective September 5, 1997 (D.C. Law 12-14; D.C. Official Code § 50-1507.01), shall be valid for a six (6) day period, to begin on a day determined by the Director.





